

25X1

DEC 1951 51-48

U.S. Officials Only

CONFIDENTIAL

SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Reported War Psychosis in the Karaganda Region/Extensive
Distribution of Consumer Goods to Allay Panic Hoarding

DATE DISTR. 21 Jul 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
OF THE UNITED STATES. WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793
AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED, ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVEL-
ATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS
PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS REPORT IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "A state of war psychosis, with wild rumors and panic purchases of foodstuffs and other commodities, reigned in the Karaganda industrial center during April 1953.
2. "During that month the military authorities started to build three new auxiliary airfields in the area of the coal mine basin, the railway junction and within the railway network in the coal basin. Antiaircraft gun and searchlight emplacements were also built. Radio 'alarm' stations [sic] were put into operation in the following Karaganda combines: the Stalinugol, the Karagandsugol and the Karagandastekhkhetroy.
3. "These war preparations caused a real panic not only among the people, who started to mob the shops and warehouses to buy foodstuffs, textiles and other commodities, but also among the Karaganda officials. The Oblispolkom (Oblast Executive Committee) of the town ordered cuts in the distribution of goods to retail warehouses. It started to store up huge quantities of goods in its own warehouses.
4. "The Party authorities submitted a report to Moscow. As a result, the Commissar of the Ministry of Local Industry, (now) agency, and a representative of the Kazakhstan Ministry of Trade, (now) Sagargaliyev, ordered the immediate shipment of consumer goods from central warehouses to shops and retail stores. Huge quantities of goods were brought in for sale in the workers' stores and shops. However, people refrained from buying lest they be accused of spreading the panic. Several officials had been charged with issuing 'panicky' instructions when the run on the shops started.

U.S. Officials Only

CONFIDENTIAL

SECURITY INFORMATION

STATE	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	FBI	ORR EV
-------	------	------	-----	-----	--------

This report is for the use within the USA of the intelligence components of the Departments or Agencies indicated above. It is not to be transmitted overseas without the concurrence of the originating office through the Assistant Director of the Office of Collection and Dissemination, CIA.

SECURITY INFORMATION

US OFFICIALS ONLY
CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

2.

5. "When they heard the news of the unusual abundance of goods in the shops in Karaganda, kolkhoz members from kolkhozes around the town began to arrive in Karaganda at the end of April. They started to buy all sorts of goods, particularly textiles. This was soon stopped by the Militia, which arrested many buyers on charges of alleged speculation.
6. "At present [May 1953] a peculiar situation has developed: the warehouses and shops are full of goods but nobody buys them, because people are afraid of being punished for doing so."

-end-

US OFFICIALS ONLY
CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION